

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-04 DHA-02 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 /103 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8388

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL BOYCOTTS CONTINUE IN THE
TRANSVAAL

1. SUMMARY: SPORADIC VIOLENCE AND SCHOOL BOYCOTTS CONTINUED IN PRETORIA'S TOWNSHIPS, PARTICULARLY ATTERIDGEVILLE, THROUGH AUGUST 9. VIOLENCE AND BOYCOTTS ALSO SPREAD TO THE EAST RAND, WITH SIGNIFICANT DISTURBANCES REPORTED IN KWA THEMA AND BRAKPAN. SOWETO WAS GENERALLY QUIET BUT TENSE, AND SCHOOL BOYCOTTS CONTINUED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LONGEST LASTING OF THE ONGOING SCHOOL BOYCOTTS, IN ATTERIDGEVILLE, WEST OF PRETORIA, INITIALLY APPEARED TO FIZZLE ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 9, WHEN STUDENTS SHOWED UP AT SCHOOLS IN LARGE NUMBERS. THE STUDENTS DID NOT ATTEND CLASSES, HOWEVER, BUT MERELY MILLED ABOUT SCHOOL GROUNDS, AND BY MID-DAY MOST SCHOOLS WERE AGAIN DESERTED. POLICE WERE
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OUT IN FORCE IN THE TOWNSHIP, AND A FEW INCIDENTS OF STONE THROWING OCCURRED. IN A MOVE WHICH MAY RESULT IN MORE STUDENT ACTION AND ARRESTS, ATTERIDGEVILLE STUDENTS MET AND ELECTED A NEW TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE TO THE STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL TO ACT UNTIL DETAINED OFFICEHOLDERS ARE RELEASED. MOST OF THE OTHER TOWNSHIPS IN THE PRETORIA AREA WERE QUIET, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A PARTIAL SCHOOL BOYCOTT IN GARANKUWA.

THAT TOWNSHIP WAS THE SCENE OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE OVER THE WEEKEND, INCLUDING ARSON WHICH DESTROYED A BLOCK OF SHOPS AND OFFICES HOUSING BRANCHES OF BARCLAY'S BANK, THE AFRICAN BANK, AND THE NATIONAL AFRICAN FEDERATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

3. VIOLENCE SPREAD TOO FOR THE FIRST TIME TO A NUMBER OF TOWNSHIPS IN THE EAST RAND ON AUGUST 9. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT IN KWA THEMA, 21 STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED FOLLOWING A DEMONSTRATION BY 400 STUDENTS AND AN INCIDENT IN WHICH STUDENTS THREW STONES AT POLICE. IN BRAKPAN, A SCHOOL BOYCOTT WAS SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN A THOUSAND STUDENTS, AND A NUMBER OF STONE-THROWING INCIDENTS CAUSING DAMAGE TO SCHOOLS AND GOVERNMENT VEHICLES WERE REPORTED. IN FORT BEAUFORT, 420 BOYCOTTING STUDENTS WERE THREATENED WITH EXPULSION IF THEY DID NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL BY THE END OF THE DAY.

4. IN SOWETO THE SITUATION WAS GENERALLY CALM, ALTHOUGH SCHOOL BOYCOTTS WERE CONTINUING. DR. NTHATO MOTLANA, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN, WAS REPORTED IN THE PRESS TO HAVE SAID THE COMMITTEE HOPED TO MEET WITH SSRC LEADERS AND PERSUADE THEM TO RETURN TO SCHOOL. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY SOURCES TELL US THAT POLICE IN SOWETO HAVE ADOPTED A NEW TACTIC IN SEARCHING FOR STUDENT DISSIDENTS. FOLLOWING EACH DISTURBANCE, POLICE NOW STATION THEMSELVES OUTSIDE BARAGWANATH HOSPITAL IN THE TOWNSHIP AND ARREST STUDENTS APPEARING FOR TREATMENT. THIS TACTIC HAS EVIDENTLY BECOME WELL KNOWN TO STUDENTS,
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WHO AVOID THE HOSPITAL AND SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT AT HOME, EVEN FOR SUCH INJURIES AS GUNSHOT WOUNDS. DR. NTHATO MOTLANA, FOR ONE, IS REPORTED PRIVATELY TO BE TREATING SOME SUCH STUDENTS.
NELSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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